



Important Information About EPIC and the Medicare Drug Benefit

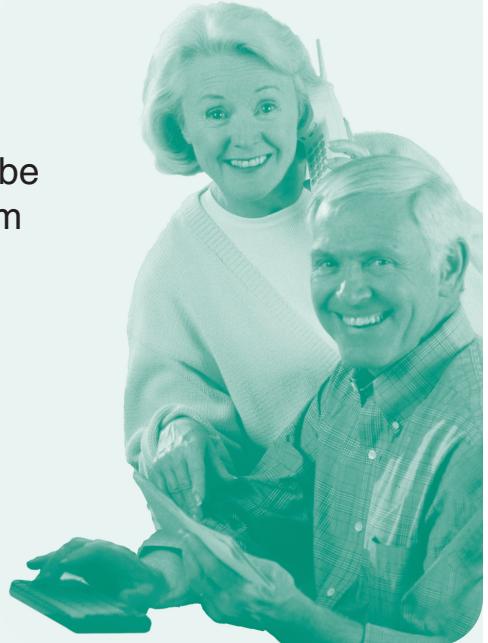
Beginning January 1, 2006

Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage through prescription drug plans. EPIC enrollees with Medicare will be receiving information about this important new benefit from Medicare, the Social Security Administration and EPIC.

The EPIC program will continue

EPIC will continue to exist, to make sure New York State seniors can afford the drugs they need to stay healthy.

EPIC enrollees that join a Medicare drug plan can also keep their EPIC coverage. By using Medicare and EPIC together, seniors can save even more at the pharmacy!



All EPIC enrollees should consider joining a Medicare drug plan

Many EPIC enrollees will save even more by joining a Medicare drug plan.

Prescription drug costs not covered by Medicare will be covered by EPIC. By using EPIC and Medicare together, seniors will usually pay a lower co-payment while still receiving the same drugs.

Extra Help is available to those with limited income and resources. Those who qualify and enroll in a Medicare drug plan will have their EPIC fee

waived. These seniors will not pay a premium or deductible for their Medicare drug coverage, and will pay much lower co-payments (\$2 and \$5) than with EPIC. This is an excellent opportunity for EPIC enrollees.

Applications for **Extra Help** are available from the Social Security Administration.

EPIC will help enrollees apply for **Extra Help** and select a Medicare drug plan that meets their drug needs and pharmacy preferences.

More information and assistance is available

EPIC 1-800-332-3742
Social Security 1-800-772-1213
Medicare 1-800-633-4227



Extra Help with Medicare and EPIC

Beginning January 1, 2006

Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage through prescription drug plans. Many EPIC enrollees will be able to save more by joining a Medicare drug plan and using it with their EPIC coverage. Those with limited income and resources should apply for **Extra Help** with the Medicare drug benefit, which will save EPIC enrollees even more.

What is **Extra Help**?

If you have Medicare and have limited income and resources, you may qualify for *Extra Help* paying for your prescription drugs. With **Extra Help**, you will not pay any premium or deductible for your Medicare drug coverage. You will only pay a co-payment of \$2 for generic drugs and \$5 for brand-name drugs.

How do I qualify for **Extra Help**?

Annual income in 2005 must be below \$12,920 if single or \$17,321 if married. Resources must be no greater than \$7,500 for a single person and \$12,000 for a married couple. (Examples of resources are: savings accounts, stocks,

bonds, CDs, IRAs, and other funds.) If your income or resources are higher, you may qualify for some **Extra Help** in paying for any premiums, deductible, and co-payments.

Can I keep my EPIC coverage?

Yes, you can keep your EPIC coverage. EPIC can be used to cover drugs that may not be covered by your Medicare drug plan. Your EPIC enrollment fees will be waived if you are approved for full **Extra Help** and join a Medicare drug plan.

What should I do next?

The Social Security Administration has mailed an Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs to people who may be eligible. Please complete the application and mail it back to Social Security as soon as possible.

Social Security will let you know if you are approved for **Extra Help**.

You should enroll in a Medicare drug plan beginning November 15, 2005. EPIC will help you apply for **Extra Help** and help you choose a Medicare drug plan.

More information and assistance is available

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